

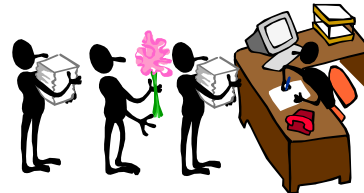
U.S. ARMY CONTRACTING AGENCY (ACA) NEWSLETTER

"OUR TEAM IS GROWING"

Volume 1, Issue 12

April 2003

*Filing, Typing and Clicking Away . . .
Phoning, Faxing and saving the day!
Meeting deadlines for all is at stake*



- The administrative professional's job today requires varied skills in management functions and technology, including: project management; integrated computer software applications; organization and scheduling; Internet/Intranet communications and research; document preparation, storage, and retrieval, with emphasis on electronic record keeping; customer service and public relations.

- *Because we don't say it often enough*

Thank-you each for the effort and continued support!



Fort Campbell DOC has College Success story

Fort Campbell's Directorate of Contracting will celebrate the college graduation of 13 of its personnel in May of this year. Each of the 13 will graduate with Bachelors of Science degrees in Organizational Leadership from Mid-Continent College in nearby Mayfield Kentucky. Graduates include Susan Bell, Susan Carroll, Trudy Colbert, Susan Davis, Jim Dysart, Lywana Dollar, June Fletcher-Schiewe, June Gowen, Debbie Rapp, and Learah Smith. Lynn Worsham, Class Leader, graduated early in December 02 in to accept a job at Southern Region PARC. Two former employees, Shirley Adams and Christine Johnson, who are still in Federal Contracting, will also graduate. In addition, one additional DOC employee, Angela Jacobs, will graduate from St. Leo's University of Florida later this year.

CONGRATULATIONS



NEWS FROM THE FIELD



On 23 April, 2003, the Fort Sam Houston Garrison received word that the appropriate Congressional notification had been completed for final decision award to the in-house Most Efficient Organizations (MEOs) for both the multi-function Base Operations (BASOPS) and the single function Visual Information (VI) services portions of the study and to proceed with the phase-in of the MEOs. The phase-in, or transition period, will commence immediately. Some of the many activities that must be completed to facilitate final implementation will begin in the next few weeks; however, the actual transition of both the BASOPS and the VI workforce to their respective MEOs is expected to begin in October or November 2003 with final implementation expected to occur in Spring 2004. The ACA-SR FSH Directorate of Contracting has a contracting officer serving as an advisor with the Commercial Activities Transition Working Group (CATWG). The CATWG is responsible for transitioning the garrison from the current operations to the MEO structure.



In response to a DoD-mandated initiative, Fort Irwin embarked on the journey to privatize the post's electrical system. After several months of analysis and hard work, Fort Irwin's acquisition team conducted negotiations with Southern California Edison (SCE) in Dec 02. The terms and conditions of the negotiated agreement were briefed to Fort Irwin's Commanding General (CG) on 14 Jan 2003. At that time the CG approved the sale of the electrical system to SCE.

On 31 March 03, Acquisition Command (on Fort Irwin's behalf) and SCE signed a 50-year contract to privatize the Fort Irwin electrical system. With the credit to be received by Fort Irwin as a result of the sale to SCE, the installation will be able to offset the cost of SCE's Annual Added Facility Charge and more importantly fund over a dozen sorely needed projects (worth over \$3.5M). These improvements will bring Fort Irwin's electrical system to more reliable and cost efficient state.

Southern California Edison will take full responsibility for ownership, operation, maintenance and repair of the electrical system on 1 August 2003. The sale of the electrical system will allow for vast improvements, including replacing poles and redoing the military substations and meter switch cabinets. These upgrades will save Fort Irwin about \$178,000 the first year and \$545,000 each subsequent year for the remainder of the 50-year contract.



Ms. Nancy Hilliard, Small Business Specialist, ACA-SR Directorate of Contracting, Fort Jackson was selected as the FY 02 Department of Army Small Business Specialist of the Year. Mr. Thomas White, Secretary of the Army, presented the award. Secretary White also presented Ms. Hilliard with his Coin of Excellence. The prestigious award is presented every year to the Small Business Specialist that demonstrates outstanding contributions to the Army's Small Business Program.

Ms. Hilliard is actively involved in the civic and business activities of the Columbia area, as well as the state. She is a member of the Southeast Area Small Business Council, National Contract Management Association, Government Partners for Small Business, Midlands Minority Supplier Development Council, Women & Minority Business Council of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce, Women Excelling in Business, and a strategic alliance partner with the SC Women in Business Council and the new SC Women's Business Center. Ms. Hilliard is certified as an Acquisition Professional in Contracting at the highest level. She is also a volunteer for the American Lung Association.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

COL Mark R Neumann sends the following- - ACA got any other PARC's working under these conditions?



NEWS FROM THE SOUTHERN REGION...Southern Region Contracting Center (SRCC) Awards Multiple Award, Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity Contracts for Operations, Planning, Training, and Resource Management.

On April 10, 2003 the SRCC conducted the post-award conference for the Operations, Planning, Training, and Resource Support Services (OPTARSS) Contracts. OPTARSS is a suite of eight contracts (multiple-award, indefinite delivery-indefinite quantity or MAC IDIQ contracts) that support operations-related services across a broad spectrum of 12 task areas including operational planning, training, modeling and simulation, flight operations, mobilization and deployment support, program management, force protection, and support of Army transformation. The statement of work for MAC IDIQ contracts describes the general scope, nature, complexity, and purpose of the services; details of requirements are specified in individual task orders. Firm fixed price, cost plus fixed fee, and labor hour arrangements are possible under OPTARSS.

Multiple award IDIQ contracts such as OPTARSS allow agencies to satisfy more of their requirements without the delay and administrative burden of awarding separate contracts with a narrower scope of work. They also allow agencies to take continuous advantage of the competitive forces of the commercial marketplace resulting in lower prices, better quality, reduced time from requirements identification to award, and improved contractor performance in satisfying customer requirements. The OPTARSS suite of contracts will provide the SRCC, as well as Southern and Northern Region Directorates of Contracting wishing to use these contracts, economical and high-velocity contracting vehicles for operations, planning, training, and resource support needs.

A list of the OPTARSS Prime Contractor's and their teams is available at <http://www.forscom.army.mil/aacc/>. More information on OPTARSS will be released at this web site as it becomes available.

FORT STEWART A recent innovative modification to Fort Stewart's full food service contract made it possible for troops awaiting deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to eat meals freshly prepared by cooks at the Fort's permanent dining facilities rather than eating meals shipped in to temporary dining areas (e.g. at picnic tables in the open or under tents). This included having hot meals provided 24 hours a day seven days a week at the deployment air terminal through out the deployment operation. National Guard Dining Facilities were strategically utilized to save on transportation cost, which resulted in a significant saving to the Government. The modification was made in just ten days after the contract specialist, Mr. Geral Baxter, received a phone call on New Year's Eve asking that he arrange to provide food for a large, but undetermined, number of troops who would be arriving on a rolling schedule beginning in about one week. The modification required intensive and extensive coordination among all parties. In coordination with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Rome, NY, an innovative bi-monthly billing arrangement was established to enable the contractor to handle the requirement from a financial perspective.

FORT BRAGG- - Requirement for Temporary Lodging for U.S. Army Reservists, Fort Bragg, North Carolina

As a result of an urgent and compelling requirement, which began after the September 11th attacks in 2001, thirty simplified Purchase Orders utilizing FAR 13.5 Test Program were awarded to Fort Bragg Lodging and local hotels as U.S. Army Reserve units arrived to augment the new base security at Fort Bragg. Each Purchase Order was awarded for a 2-month base period and six 1-month option periods. After all options, including the six-month extension of services, were exhausted, the requirement remained valid. As these Purchase Orders were nearing their final expiration date at about the same time, it became necessary to devise an acquisition strategy that would meet the needs of a requirement estimated at \$32,724,000.00.

Due to difficulties encountered in receiving funding on a month-to-month basis, not to mention the administrative burden being placed on a diminishing workforce in trying to keep up with the dynamic requirement against firm-fixed price Purchase Orders, it was necessary to implement some type of procedure in the new large contract to alleviate these problems. As a result, a determination was made to solicit as a negotiated commercial service utilizing streamlined procedures of a Combined Synopsis/Solicitation IAW FAR Part 12.6. Additionally, due to the high volume of rooms required and the restriction that they are within a 10-mile radius of Fort Bragg, the SBA approved soliciting on an unrestricted basis. Because it was known from the beginning that no one lodging facility would be able to meet the entire estimated room requirement, the solicitation allowed for multiple awards. Furthermore, to alleviate the need to modify each order every time there was a change in the number of reservists or the number of days lodging was needed, the new contract would provide CORs with delegated authority to place orders using an established list of the awardees, lowest price to the highest price.

From the 20 offerors with whom negotiations were held, thirteen multiple awards were made within a 134-day CALT for a total combined estimated amount of \$25,951,632.30. Awardees included one government agency, two SDB's, five SBs and five LBs.

As the war effort geared up and more units deployed, the thirteen lodging contracts were exhausted and a new requirement was received for an additional 1100 single and double occupancy rooms. Due to lessons learned during solicitation and award of the initial 13 contracts, a couple of changes were made in the solicitation and award of the overflow contracts. Because Fort Bragg had exhausted virtually all-lodging facilities within a 10-mile radius and market research indicated that the local marketplace was saturated, the 10-mile radius was extended to 12 miles to increase competition. In an attempt to further streamline the acquisition lead-time, and based on the extent of negotiations for the initial 13 contracts, a determination was made to solicit for the overflow as a Combined Synopsis/Solicitation using FAR Part 12 in conjunction with Part 14. In an effort to ensure bidders understood the statement of work and the administration/ordering process, a Pre-Bid Conference was held and personal

telephonic invitations to this conference were issued to every known local hotel/motel within the 12-mile radius. As a result, Fort Bragg was able to award an additional 13 “overflow” contracts for an additional 800 rooms within a **49 day** CALT. These contracts are used only when there is no availability among the 13 initial contracts. The total combined estimated amount of the thirteen ‘overflow’ contracts is \$11,694,249.00. These contracts were awarded to one SDB, two Small Minority Owned, five SBs and five LBs. Because of these efforts, Fort Bragg is currently housing 2137 soldiers in a total of 15 motels.

“HAIL AND FAREWELL”



Sergeant Major Jones’ arrives from Germany

Sergeant Major Ethan A. Jones arrives from US Army Contracting Command, Europe, to become the first Army Contracting Agency, first Sergeant Major. SGM Jones will work as the Senior Enlisted Contracting Advisor for the Director, ACA and within the contingency contracting directorate. On 3 May 03, Sergeant Major Jones’ was honored and inducted into the Paine College, “Athletic Hall Of Fame”, in Augusta, Georgia, while at Paine he participated on the basketball and baseball teams.” It’s an exciting and challenge time for the Army, war-fighters and the Army Contracting Agency. Army’s 21st Century transformation has brought dramatic changes in the way contracting supports the war-fighter. A lethal, lighter and mobile force that deploys anywhere in the world in 72 to 96 hours will require some type of contracting support; a force multiplier. Military and Emergency Essential DA Civilians who support Army contracting missions are critical forces enablers. These exceptional men and women serve primarily as contingency contracting officers; deploying anywhere in the world, operating in austere and sometime hostile environments, operations like, “Joint Forge and Guardian, Ending Freedom and now Iraqi Freedom, their goals are simply, “Accomplish the Mission First, Above All Else”. As war-fighting and technological systems and creative business practices have evolve, our abilities to support our customers’ systems/practices seamlessly and transparently must advance; a challenge the Army Contracting Agency embraces. Realigning and restructuring our resources allows ACA sufficient manning to accomplish Army missions and above all else provide effective, efficient and timely service to all of our customers!



ACA TEAM POINTS OF CONTACT

Area of Expertise

Executive Officer
Administrative Assistant
Contingency Contracting
Information Technology
& Electronic Commerce
Resource Management
Budget

Army level II Purchase Card
Personnel
Manpower
SADBUO
LNOS/IMA
Business Systems
Metrics

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A Word from the Editor

We would like to involve our readers in playing a more active role in guiding the publication. As always, we continue to invite our readers to provide their ideas, views, and opinions. If you have comments and/or suggestions for the newsletter on how we can continue to improve the publication, please don't hesitate to let me know. Email your comments to Shirlee.Knickerbocker@SAALT.army.mil or call me at DSN 761-9158. DISTRIBUTION D: Distribution authorized to DoD and US DoD Contractors only. Other requests for this document shall be referred to: U.S. Army Contracting Agency, ATTN: SFCA (Nicki Knickerbocker), 5109 Leesburg Pike, Skyline 6, Suite 302, Falls Church, VA 22041-3201, or request by Email to shirlee.knickerbocker@saalt.army.mil.

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